THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the significant changes that have taken place in the international trading environment in recent years, it was felt necessary to restructure the EPCs' in order to improve their functioning and make them more effective. Moreover, with emergence of new sectors of export importance, criteria need to be laid down regarding establishment of new EPC's.

(c) The above steps are expected to improve the functioning of existing EPCs.

Investment in Industrial Sector

5226. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment required to be made in the industrial sector of the country;

(b) the main channels for investment in the industrial sector;

(c) whether Government have formulated any phased programme for investment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The total required investment to be made in the industrial sector during the ninth plan has been estimated at Rs. 1072.8 thousand crore.

(b) The major channels of investment include private domestic investment, foreign direct investment and public investment (government, including the public sector enterprises).

(c) and (d) While the public investment envisaged in the plan is made operational through the annual budgets, the private investment depends on the perception of the investor and is therefore market driven.

Adverse impact of exim policy for 2000-01

5227. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was revceived in Hindi.

(a) whether new EXIM Policy for 2000-01 has liberalised the quantitative restrictions on import of several food items, including marine products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of its adverse impact on the domestic marine industry; and

(d) what measures are proposed to be taken to protect the domestic industry against foreign dumping of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Import restrictions on 714 items were removed on 31.03.2000. These items include some of the food items and fish and fish products. Fish and fish products are classified under chapter 3 and processed fish preparations are classified under Exim Code Heading 16.04 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002. Out of 714 tariff lines, 73 tariff lines pertain to fish, fish products and fish preparations.

However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Custom duties and are also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the domestic producers of marine products. Further, the imports are being closely monitored and Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

India's tariff binding at W.T.O. for most of the agricultural items are fairly high and effective rates or customs duties can be raised to those levels, in case there is any evidence of substantial increase in imports. In the Budget for the year 2000-2001, presented before the Parliament, the import duty on fish and fish products as classified under chapter 3 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002 has been increased from 15% to 35%.

In case of excessive import or dumping, measures such as Anti-dumping action, imposition of Countervailing duties and Safeguard action can be resorted to provide to the domestic producers.